

BERKELEY.

I'M TELLIN' YOU, KRYSALIN, EVEN WITH THESE NITEVIZ SHADES ON, THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE SERIOUS CREEPS.

EVER SINCE THE '51 NEGATIVE ZONE MELTDOWN AT THE UNIVERSITY LAB--

--THESE HILLS HAVE BEEN HAUNTED BY HUNDREDS OF POOR SOULS TRAPPED BETWEEN DIMENSIONS.

I SAY WE TURN AROUND NOW-- BEFORE WE WASH WE WERE OUT OF DIMENSIONAL SYNCH.

GHOST STORIES AREN'T GOING TO STOP ME FROM FINDING THE FREE RADICALS, NURF.

THEY KIDNAPPED MY BROTHER. AND AS MUCH AS ZAK AND I DISAGREE ON JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING--

--HE'S ALL THE FAMILY I HAVE LEFT.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, KRYS.

THE RARS ARE GODS OF SUBTLETY AND SABOTAGE.

THEY CAN NUKE YOUR LIFE IN A ZILLION DIFFERENT WAYS--

--FROM ZABBING YOUR CRED STASH TO WEATHERSTORMING YOUR HOOD.

WORRY ABOUT WHAT I CAN DO TO YOU.

PLEASE... JUST SHOW ME WHERE THE RARS CRASH, AND THEN YOU CAN BACKTRACK AT LIGHTSPEED.

OKAY, WE'RE CLOSE. WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL WE DON'T TRIP ANY MOTION DETECTORS.

OOOPS.



--BOTTOM--

OW!

WHUMP KRUNCH

HEY, KRYG, I
SCRAGGED
MY SHADES.
I CAN'T SEE
A THING.

THERE'S NOTHING TO
SEE. NO DOOR. NO EXIT.
ONLY A SERIES OF VEN-
TILATION DUCTS--



--ALL THE
BETTER TO
PUMP GAS
THROUGH.
KRAFF! KRAFF!

THE RADS BELIEVE
POLITICAL CHANGE
HAPPENS THROUGH
PERCEPTUAL SHIFTS--

--KRAFF! KRAFF!
AND THEIR CHEMIST,
DAVE, IS A WIZARD
AT PSYCHOACTIVE
ALCHEMY.



FEEL DIZZY.
DON'T KNOW IF
THEY'RE TRYING
TO KNOCK US
OUT OR FREAK
US OUT...



OOOOOH
MYYYYY...



YOU ARE
RILLY
BEAUTIFUL.

EVERYTHING'S
RILLY RILLY
BEAUTIFUL...
YOW... THE LIGHTS...
THE ANGELS...
'SPECIALLY
THE ANGELS.



I TOLD
YOU THE
PANTHERS
WOULD SEND
TROOPS
ONCE WE
GRABBED
THEIR
MINISTER.

THEY DON'T
LOOK LIKE
PANTHERS,
RAINMAKER.

THAT
ONE'S A
JERRY.

WVVVVTTTTT



SINCE WHEN DOES
PANTHER DOCTRINE
ALLOW FOR FANATI-
CAL WORSHIP OF
A DECADES DEAD
BAND?

GOOD
QUESTION. WE'LL
HAVE TO ASK THEM
WHEN THEY'RE
LUCID.

THE LIGHT.
SO BRIGHT.



LOSE THE
CHEAP OWL
WEAR,
MONEY.

THEY WORK
IN THE DARK,
BUT IN FULL
LIGHT, IT'S
LIKE STARING
INTO THE
SUN.

OOOOH...
WOW...
THANKS...

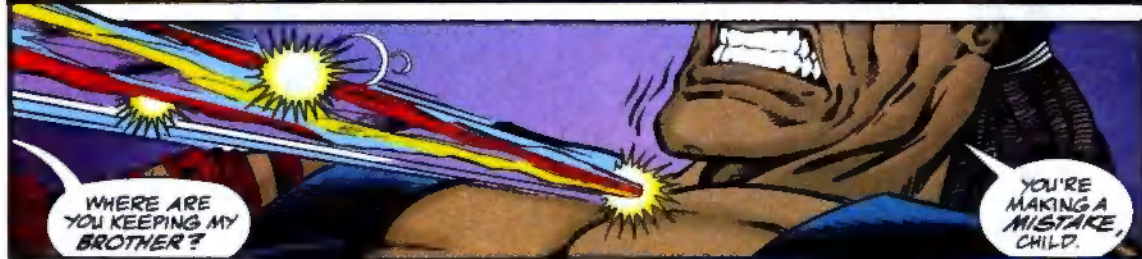
...HEY, DO ME
ANOTHER
FAVOR...

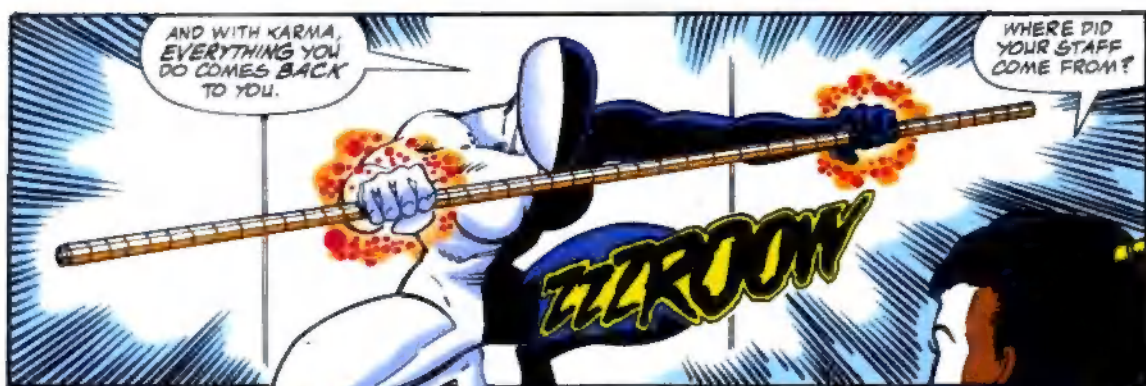


DON'T
CALL ME
MONEY!

CRASH!

FLUMP





AND WITH KARMA,
EVERYTHING YOU
DO COMES BACK
TO YOU.

WHERE DID
YOUR STAFF
COME FROM?



ENERGY
FIELD, BABY.
I'M WIRED.

I CAN
ANALYZE AND
MIMIC ANY
WEAPON USED
AGAINST ME.

ALL RIGHT,
THE ADVANTAGE
IS YOURS. NOW
WHAT?

THWAK

FORGET ABOUT
CREATING ANOTHER
CRYSTAL WEAPON,
HONEY, I CAN MATCH
YOU MOVE FOR
MOVE.

THAT'S
EASY, I THROW
YOU TO THE
LIONS.

YOU GET
TO MEET
TRANCE.

SOMEWHERE IN
THE MOUNTAINS
OF NEW MEXICO.

ZHAO'S ATTEMPT TO
CREATE ANALOGS OF THE
ORIGINAL TWENTIETH
CENTURY X-MEN FAILED
MISERABLY.

HIS SO-CALLED CHOSEN
SUFFERED FROM ADVANCED
CELLULAR DETERIORATION
CAUSED BY ZHAO'S BIO-
GENETIC TINKERING.

IT APPEARS SHAKTI
HADDAD HAS FINALLY
HALTED AND REVERSED
THAT DETERIORATION.

NO WONDER.
SHE'S REPORTEDLY
AS BRILLIANT AS
HER ESTRANGED
FATHER.

WE CAN THANK
HER LATER. RIGHT
NOW LET'S SYNC THE
TRANSMITTERS--

--AND SEND THEM
SPECIAL DELIVERY
TO THE THEATRE
OF PAIN.

PING

AND WHERE IS THE
FOURTH BODY WE WERE
SENT FOR, INITIATE?

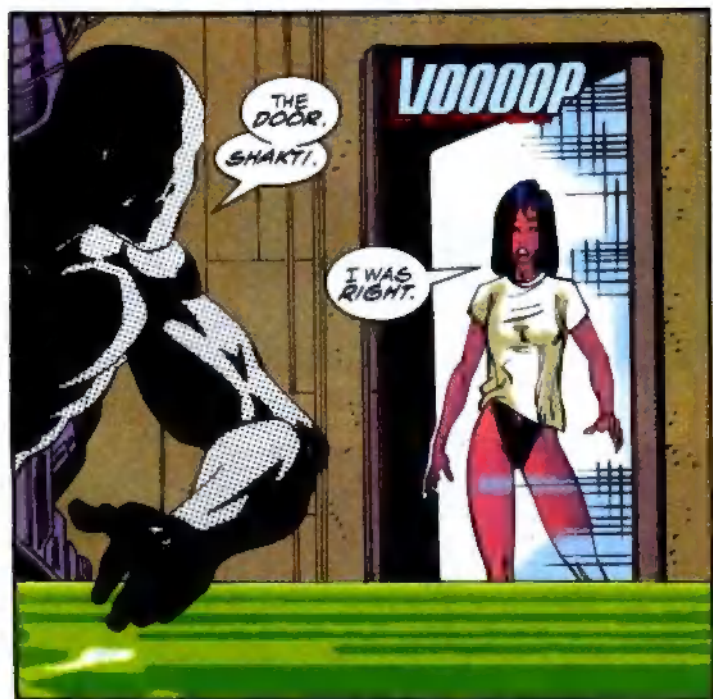
THE FOSSIL'S
UNDER GLASS IN
THE ADJOINING
LAB.

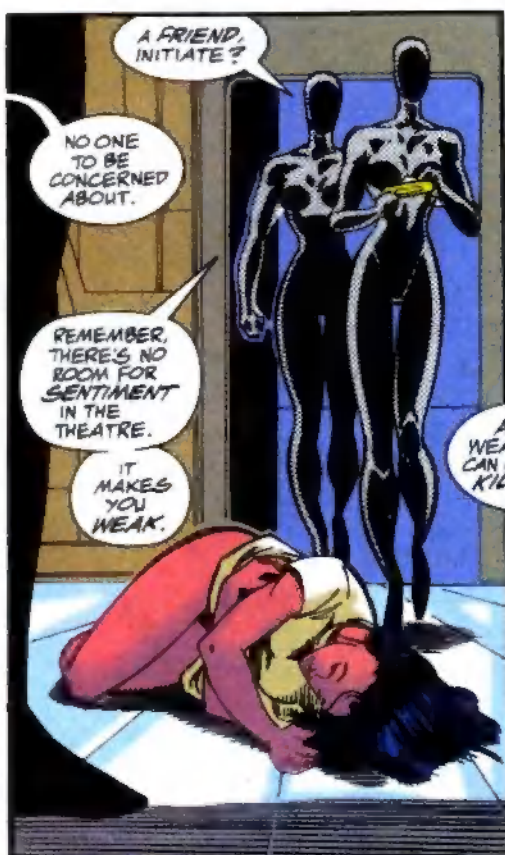
THIS ONE'S
MINE. WE GO
WAY BACK.

A HALLWAY
AWAY.

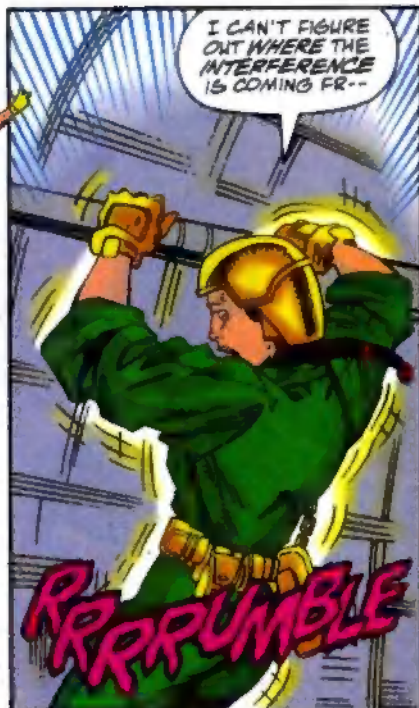
CAN'T SLEEP... IT'S
LIKE AN ALARM WENT
OFF...

...I CAN SENSE A
MUTANT PRESENCE
NEARBY...
...IN THE
LAB.





00:59:00



SOMEWHERE BENEATH
THE BERKELEY HILLS.

HERE ARE THE
INTRUDERS, TRANCE.
BE CAREFUL OF THE
WOMAN. SHE'S A
MUTANT.

OGADA'S
SISTER. I
RECOGNIZE
HER FROM
CHAO PRAYAM.

WELCOME
TO THE
UNDERGROUND,
KRYSMALIN
PORTER. YOU'VE
ALREADY MET
KARMA, OAZE AND
RAINMAKER.

WE ARE
**THE FREE
RADICALS.**

LIKE
OUR CHEMICAL
NAMESAKES,
WE ARE
CATALYSTS OF
CHANGE--

--A
COLLECTIVE
OF
SCIENTISTS
WAGING
GUERRILLA
WAR AGAINST
GOVERN-
MENTAL AND
CORPORATE
OPPRESSION.

SPARE
ME THE
POLITICAL
MANIFESTO.

WHERE DO
YOU PEOPLE
GET OFF
ABDUCTING
MY
BROTHER?

* THE THAI RESTAURANT WHERE
ZAK WAS KIDNAPPED LAST
ISSUE.--JOEY

DON'T PROVOKE
HER, KRYS. THEY
SAY TRANCE CAN
KILL YOU WITH HER
EYES.

YOUR BROTHER--MINISTER OF OAKLAND'S SOLDIERS OF THE PANTHER-- HAS UNJUSTLY INCARCERATED THE KID.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

BILLY ZED-- THE FREE RADICALS' ANARCHIC VISIONARY-- MASTER OF MACHINE, PRANKSTER SUPREME.

THE PANTHERS DROPPED BILLY THE KID? ZOWIE.

BY LUCK AND LUCK ALONE. THEY CAUGHT BILLY IN A RAID ON AN EMERYVILLE TECH-FORGE.

SO YOUR BOY GOT NAILED--

--AND, AFTER YOU'VE SEEDED THE CLOUDS OVER OAKLAND WITH HALLUCINOGENS, CAN YOU BE SURPRISED?

* X-MEN 2099 #16--
ME AGAIN

WE STAND IN OPPOSITION TO THE POLICE STATE THE PANTHERS HAVE CREATED IN OAKLAND.

LOOK AT YOUR BROTHER. BY EMBRACING PANTHER DOCTRINE, HE HAS LOST HIS SOUL.

THAT'S NOT TRUE. IS IT, ZAK?

ZAK?

HE'S NOT RESPONDING WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM, TRANCE?

HE'S UNDER MY SPELL-- MESMERIZED BY THE SEARING INTENSITY OF MY GAZE.

HE'LL REMAIN IN THIS HYPNOTIC STUPOR UNTIL THE PANTHERS RELEASE OUR COMRADE.

INCOMING MESSAGE, TRANCE. THE PANTHERS TOOK THEIR SHOCKIN' TIME RESPONDING OUR DEMANDS.

SORRY ABOUT THE POOR REZ, BUT I'M BASKET WEAVING SATELLITE SIGNALS TO KEEP THEM FROM TRACING US.

THIS IS LIEUTENANT NISHIHARA OF THE PANTHER ELITE, I DON'T HAVE VISUAL. AM I SPEAKING TO THE FREE RADICALS?

BINGO, BABY.

LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE, LIEUTENANT--ARE YOU GONNA FREE BILLY ZED--

--OR DO WE NEUTER THE PANTHER TABBY WE'VE GOT ON A SHORT LEASH?

THE PANTHERS WILL NOT NEGOTIATE WITH CRIMINALS.

IF YOU DON'T RELEASE MINISTER OGADA WITHIN THE NEXT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, PREPARE TO FEEL THE PANTHER'S RAGE--

END TRANSMISSION. THEY DON'T BELIEVE WE ARE SERIOUS.

WHAT DID I TELL YOU, TRANCE? THE PANTHERS WON'T GIVE IN. THEY SEE EVERYTHING IN BLACK AND WHITE.

YOUR BROTHER'S PEOPLE HAVE CONDEMNED HIM TO DIE.

WHAT DO YOU GAIN BY KILLING ZAK? ANOTHER PANTHER WILL SIMPLY TAKE HIS PLACE.

WITHOUT THE SON OF A PANTHER FOUNDER TO LEAD THEM, THE COUNCIL WILL CRUMBLE FROM PETTY FACTIONALISM.



WAIT A SECOND, TRANCE. I'M NOT TOO COMFORTABLE WITH THE MORAL IMPLICATIONS OF MURDER.

WOULDN'T THE TAKING OF A HUMAN LIFE FOR POLITICAL GAIN MAKE US AS GUILTY AS THE SYSTEMS WE OPPOSE?

THEN DON'T KILL ZAK. FIND ANOTHER WAY TO GET WHAT YOU WANT.



YES, OUR MUTANT GUEST IS RIGHT. WE DO HAVE ANOTHER OPTION.



KRYSTALIN CAN BREAK BILLY ZED OUT OF THE PANTHERS' DETENTION CENTER.

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'LL--



YOU HAVE NO CHOICE, KRYSTALIN.

MY OCULAR IMPLANTS TRACE A HYPNOTIC PATTERN OF LIGHT DIRECTLY ONTO YOUR BROTHER'S RETINAS.

THE EFFECT IS OVERPOWERING AND IRRESISTIBLE.



IF YOU DON'T COMPLY, I'LL MAKE YOUR BROTHER KILL HIMSELF.

NO... YOU CAN'T BE THAT COLD.

KRYS, THAT TWIST IS ABSOLUTE ZERO.

THIS MISSION'S
SCREWY. CAP. WHY
ARE WE TARGETING
THE SYNGE CASINO?

THEY FORGET
TO PAY THEIR
SYNDICATE
DUES?

SOME LONE WOLF
RAIDER EXECUTED
A HOSTILE TAKEOVER
YESTERDAY--

--AND NOW HE'S
THREATENING TO
DO THE SAME THING
TO THE REST OF
THE SYNDICATE.

SO WE'RE HERE
TO FLEX OUR
MUSCLE--MAKE A
LITTLE NOISE--
AND STRAFE THE
ADMINISTRATIVE
LEVELS.

ENJOY THE STYGIAN
SPLENDOR OF DANTE'S
INFERNAL CIRCUS.

NINE RINGS OF
DEPRAVITY AND
DECADENCE. THREE
TIMES NIGHT--

TIME TO SHOW
THIS UPSTART
NOBODY PUTS THE
SQUEEZE ON THE
GREATER NEVADA
SYNDICATE.

HI HO, MY
WAYFARING WAR
MACHINES,
HALLOWEEN
JACK HERE.

BEFORE YOU CRANK
UP THE WAGNER
AND SWITCH INTO
VALKYRIE MODE
TO TEACH ME A
LESSON--

--I THOUGHT YOU'D
LIKE TO KNOW THAT
THIS INSOLENT PUP
HAS
YOUR ON BOARD
COMPUTERS.

GET A LOAD
OF THE MUG
ON THE VIDEO
MARGUEE--

WHUP-WHUP-WHUP-WHUP-WHUP-WHUP-WHUP-WHUP

HE'S
GOT TO BE
KIDDING.
THIS
COPTER'S
FOIL
WRAPPED.
HE CAN'T
TOUCH OUR
HARDWARE.

THINK
AGAIN, OUR
SYSTEM JUST
CRASHED.

EVERYTHING'S
SHUTTING DOWN--
INCLUDING THE
ROTOR.



BAIL OUT!

AND TRY NOT TO SLAM INTO ANY BUILDINGS ON THE WAY DOWN.

THIS IS GONNA BE A ROUGH LANDING--



--BUT AT LEAST WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES GOING IN FLAMES.



HOO HAH! CAN I PROVIDE FIREWORKS FOR MY GUESTS OR WHAT?

SPECTACLE! THAT'S WHAT THIS TOWN LACKS. GENUINE SPECTACLE!

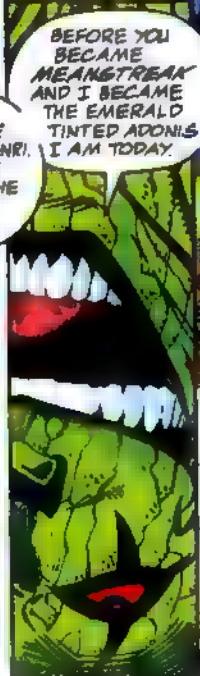
BUT SKEWERING A SATELLITE INTO A TRIO OF YTOL MAINFRAMES IS NOTHING.



NEXT TIME THE SYNDICATE WON'T GIVE US SUCH AN OBVIOUS TARGET.

LET THOSE CONBOYS WISEGUY'S THEIR WORST.

WE'RE UNBEATABLE TOGETHER, HENRI! JUST LIKE THE OLD DAYS AT THE ALCHEMAX ACADEMY--



BEFORE YOU BECAME MEANGREAK AND I BECAME THE EMERALD TINTED AODNIS I AM TODAY.



AND WHAT'S THE MATTER, DESDEMONA DARLING-- NOT ENJOYING THE SHOW?

YOU'VE TAKEN OVER MY CASINO, PILFERED MY BANK ACCOUNTS, AND ARE HOLDING ME HOSTAGE.

I DON'T FIND ANYTHING AMUSING ABOUT ANY OF THIS, YOU LUNATIC.

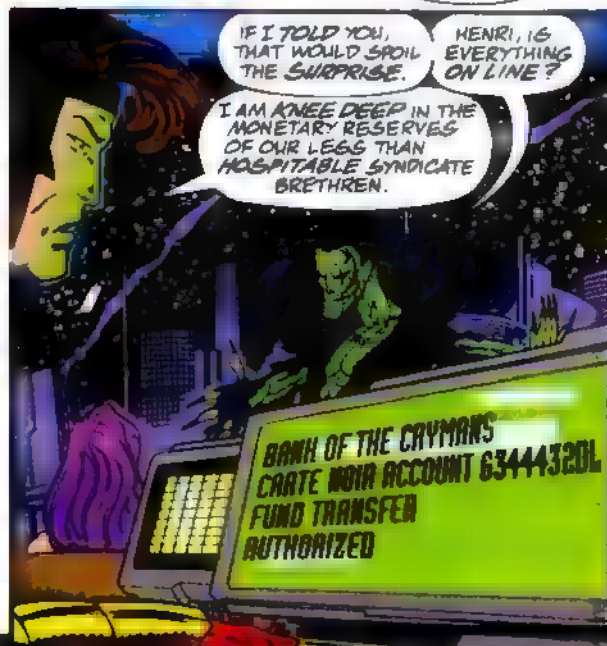


STOP WHINING,
YOU SPOILED
BRAT.

THIS IS THE
BEST THING THAT'S
HAPPENED TO YOU
SINCE BROTHER
LYTTON OFFED
YOUR OLD MAN.

I'M GIVING YOU
FRONT ROW CENTER
SEATS TO WATCH
VEGAS BURN!

WHAT DO
YOU INTEND
TO DO?

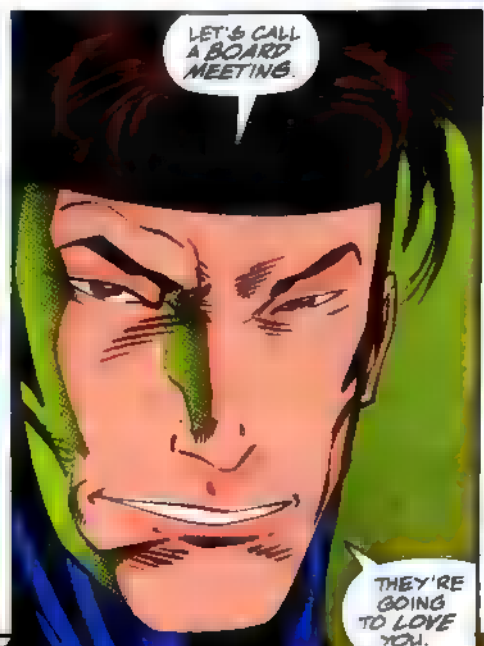


IF I TOLD YOU,
THAT WOULD SPOIL
THE SURPRISE.

HENRI, IS
EVERYTHING
ON LINE?

I AM KNEE DEEP IN THE
MONETARY RESERVES
OF OUR LESS THAN
HOSPITABLE SYNDICATE
BRETHREN.

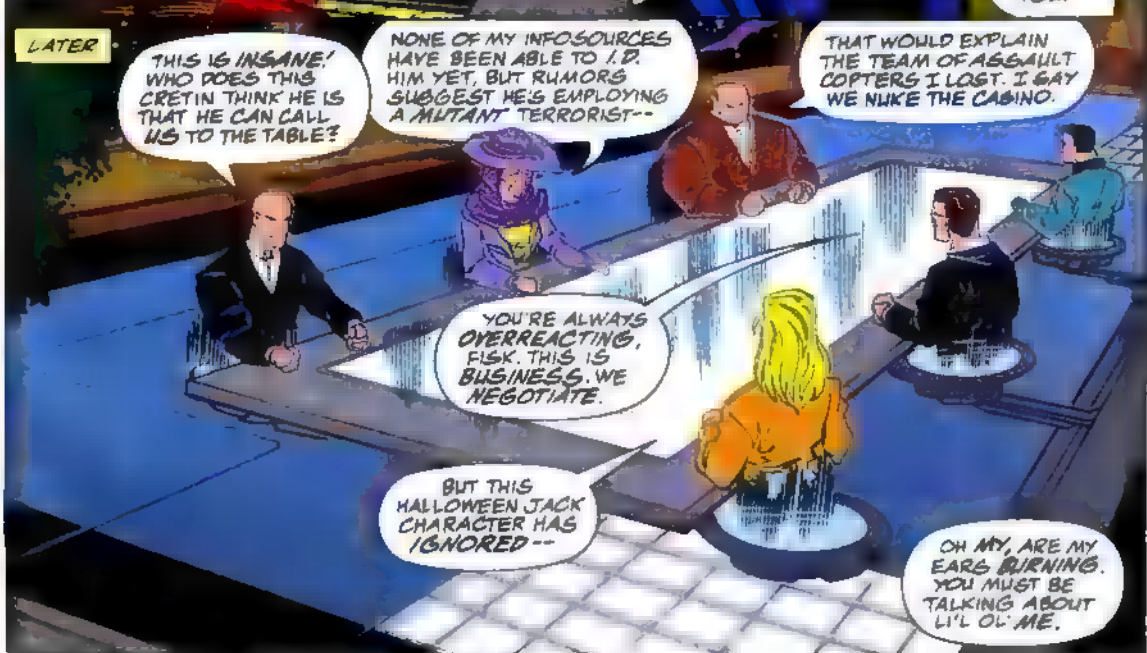
BANK OF THE CRYMARS
CARTE NOIR ACCOUNT 63444320L
FUND TRANSFER
AUTHORIZED



LET'S CALL
A BOARD
MEETING.

THEY'RE
GOING TO
LOVE
YOU.

LATER



THIS IS INSANE!
WHO DOES THIS
CRETIN THINK HE IS
THAT HE CAN CALL
US TO THE TABLE?

NONE OF MY INFOSOURCES
HAVE BEEN ABLE TO I.D.
HIM YET, BUT RUMORS
SUGGEST HE'S EMPLOYING
A MUTANT TERRORIST--

THAT WOULD EXPLAIN
THE TEAM OF ASSAULT
COPTERS I LOST. I SAY
WE NUKE THE CASINO.

YOU'RE ALWAYS
OVERREACTING,
FISK. THIS IS
BUSINESS. WE
NEGOTIATE.

BUT THIS
HALLOWEEN JACK
CHARACTER HAS
IGNORED--

OH MY, ARE MY
EARS BURNING.
YOU MUST BE
TALKING ABOUT
L'L OL' ME.



THOUGH I'D
ABSOLUTELY
ADORE TO MEET
AND GREET YOU
ALL IN PERSON,
I'M BUSY, BUSY,
BUSY.

SO I'LL
KEEP THIS
SHORT FACE
IT, THE
SYNDICATE'S
RUN THIS CITY
INTO THE
GROUND.

THE SAME
TIRED SHOWS.
THE SAME FIXED
ODDS. THE SAME
DESPERATE
HUSTLE.

IT'S JUST
NO FUN
ANYMORE.

WHERE DO
YOU GET OFF
TELLIN' US OUR
BUSINESS? YOU
GOT SOME NERVE,
PAL.

INDEED I DO,
MR. FISK--OR
MAY I CALL YOU
MORTIMER?

AND THAT NERVE
HAS GIVEN ME
TOTAL ACCESS TO
EACH AND EVERY ONE
OF YOUR PRIVATE
BANK ACCOUNTS.

YEAH, RIGHT.
TELL ME ANOTHER
ONE, BUDDY. NOBODY
CAN TOUCH THOSE
ACCOUNTS.

HE'S NOT JOKING,
FISK, SOMEONE'S
BLOCKED ALL MY
CAYMAN
RESERVES.

GOTCHA.

NOW UNLESS
YOU WANT ME TO
ERASE YOUR
ENTIRE FORTUNES,
STAY OUT OF MY
WAY.

YOU SEE,
I'M GOING
TO REMAKE
LAS VEGAS--

--IN MY
IMAGE.

YOU'RE A BIGGER
FOOL THAN I
THOUGHT. YOU
CAN'T STRONGARM
THE NEVADA
SYNDICATE, AND
EXPECT THEM TO
ROLL OVER.

DO YOU THINK
SO? MAYBE I
WAS MARCH. OH,
I JUST WANT
THEM TO LIKE
ME.

THEY'RE GOING
TO KILL YOU, YOU
SMIRKING IDIOT.

THEY HAVE
STANDING ACCOUNTS
WITH THE ASSASSIN'S
BUILD. YOU'RE A
DEAD MAN.

WHY, DESDEMONA,
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU
CARED. I'M TOUCHED
AND--DARE I SAY
IT--MOVED.

I'D KILL
YOU MYSELF
IF YOU WEREN'T
HOLDING ME
HOSTAGE.

THEN GO. RUN
WILD. RUN FREE.
CONSPIRE AGAINST
ME TO YOUR HEART'S
CONTENT.

BUT DON'T
EXPECT ME
TO TAKE YOU
BACK--

--WHEN YOU
REALIZE ALL THIS
ANGER WAS
MASKING YOUR
DEEP ATTRACTION
FOR ME.



I CAN LEAVE?

JACK, THAT WOULD BE A BAD IDEA.

THE SYNDICATE'S IN THE DARK ABOUT WHO WE ARE. LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY.

YOU KNOW ME, HENRI. I LOVE A CHALLENGE.

TATA, DES. SEE YOU SOON.



OKAY, YOU JUST LET A WOMAN WITH EVERY REASON TO WANT YOU DEAD WALK.

NOT THAT IT HASN'T BEEN A BLAST, BUT MAYBE ITS TIME I GOT OFF THIS WILD RIDE.



HENRI, MY FRIEND, BEFORE YOU ZOOM OFF IN FRUSTRATION, LET ME SAY TWO WORDS TO YOU--

--VIRTUAL UNREALITY.

I'M GOING TO BRING ANOTHER DIMENSION TO VEGAS.

* SEE EPISODE 20M 8/11-13. -- JOEY

SIX HOURS
LATER.

GET OFF
THE FLOOR,
LYTTON.

DESDEMONA?
ARE YOU REALLY
HERE OR AM I
HALLUCINATING?

THE CASINO'S BEEN
TAKEN OVER BY A
MADMAN. I NEED
YOU TO HELP ME GET
IT BACK.

I DON'T CARE ABOUT
THE CASINO. DID YOU
GET MY SHIRT? I
NEED IT, PEG. BAD.

I HAD DOCTOR NIXX
MIX UP SOMETHING
VERY SPECIAL FOR
YOU, BIG BROTHER.

OOOH...
YESSS...

AAAAARGH!

IT HURTS...
IT'S NOT
SUPPOSED
TO HURT...

YOU'VE
POISONED
ME.

NO. I'VE MADE
YOU USEFUL
FOR ONCE IN
YOUR SAD LIFE.

I'VE GIVEN
YOU THE MEANS
TO BRIND
HALLOWEEN JACK
INTO DUST.

TO BE
CONTINUED